

B. Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

3. The method for heat treating an extrusion bolt/slug (1) as set forth in claim 1 [~~any one of claims 1 or 2~~], characterized in that the extrusion bolt/slug (1) is heated to the highest optimal temperature for the respective alloy, and at an extrusion temperature which is lower than this temperature due to the requirements of the extrusion process is rapidly cooled following said heating, wherein the extrusion bolt/slug (1) is cooled such that after an active cooling period and a following temperature equalization period it exhibits the desired, lower extrusion temperature, in particular when a so-called temperature taper is generated while cooling from the highest optimal temperature for the respective alloy to the lower extrusion temperature required for the extrusion process.

6. The method as set forth in claim 1 [~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~], characterized in that demineralized water is used as the cooling fluid.

10. The device as set forth in claim 7 [~~at least one of claims 7 to 9~~], characterized in that the nozzles of the recuperation burners (22) are fitted with dies made of a material with high temperature stability, to alter the cross-section of the burner jets (24), wherein in particular the nozzles of the recuperation burners (22) change the direction of the burner jets (24) and/or the dies divide the burner jets (24) up respectively into at least two individual jets.

11. The device as set forth in claim 7 [~~at least one of claims 7 to 10~~], characterized in that the extrusion bolt or slug (1) is in a fixed position in the rapid cooling device during the cooling process, said rapid cooling device consisting of annular arrangements of individual nozzles (25), wherein in particular each group of nozzles is formed by the nozzles of an annular arrangement of nozzles and/or the nozzles exhibit different sizes according to their orientation with respect to the shell surface of the bolt.

12. The device as set forth in claim 7 [~~at least one of claims 7 to 11~~], characterized in that during the cooling process, the bolt is held by a clamp mounting (34) which grips the facing sides of the bolt and may be set to various bolt lengths, and which in particular comprises catches (34c) on the lower face of the bolt, for additionally securing the bolt through a positive lock.

14. The device as set forth in claim 7 [~~any one of claims 7 to 13~~], characterized in that the cooling period is different for the individual groups of nozzles, wherein in particular a period of time for temperature equalization follows the cooling period.

15. The device as set forth in claim 7 [~~at least one of claims 7 to 14~~], characterized in that - for short times per bolt - at least two cooling devices are operated in parallel.

16. The device as set forth in claim 7 [~~any one of claims 7 to 15~~], characterized in that the nozzles of the rapid cooling device are supplied with cooling fluid from a pressure accumulator.